

ADMINISTRATION, when about to construct [any highway,] A HIGHWAY, THE COST OF WHICH WILL EXCEED \$25,000, shall advertise for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers published in each county in which the highway lies, and for three consecutive issues in at least one daily newspaper published in Baltimore City, for sealed proposals for the construction of [said] THE highway, accurately describing the same and stating the time and place for opening [said] THE proposals, and reserving the right to reject any and all proposals; [said] THE proposals shall be publicly opened at the time specified in [said] THE advertisement, and the contract for [such] THE work or for the supplies and materials required for [such] THE construction shall be awarded by the [Commission] ADMINISTRATION to the lowest responsible bidder, unless in the opinion of [said Commission] THE ADMINISTRATION the interests of the State [shall] WILL be better served by awarding the contract to some other bidder, when this may be done. [All such work which shall be done by the said Commission, whether on State roads, county roads or municipal streets, the labor and materials of which are estimated to cost over six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500.00) shall be advertised as aforesaid, except such] THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO THE COST OF ANY labor and materials as may be required from time to time to maintain the various roads to the width and cross section, as previously or originally constructed. The construction and improvement of all State highways or parts thereof shall be under the supervision and subject to the approval of the [said Commission,] ADMINISTRATION, in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the chief engineer and approved by [said Commission.] THE ADMINISTRATION. In all cases where the contract for work and materials [shall be] IS given out after competitive bidding the successful bidder shall promptly execute a formal contract to be approved as to its form, terms and conditions by [said Commission,] THE ADMINISTRATION, and shall also execute and deliver to [said Commission] THE ADMINISTRATION a good and sufficient bond to be approved by [said Commission] THE ADMINISTRATION to the State of Maryland in not less than the amount of the contract price. In no case shall any [such] bond be approved or accepted unless the obligors bind themselves therein to the payment of all just debts for labor and materials incurred by the bidder in the construction and improvement of the road contracted for. To all [such] bids there shall be attached the certified check of the bidder, or a cashier's or treasurer's check drawn upon a bank, and the bidder who has the contract awarded to him and who fails to promptly and properly execute the contract and bond shall forfeit the [said] contract. The [said] check shall be taken and considered as liquidated damages, and not a penalty, for